

LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as 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.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

***DOXOLOGY #607**

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*God of the harvest, you are continually planting the seeds of your love in our world and in our lives.
As we bring our gifts to you, may they be seeds of your grace, peace, and hope, planted deeply in our community. Amen.*

— Sending —
Live into Hope

***HYMN #772**

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

The blessing of the holy, triune God, who was and is and is to come—first and last, beginning and end, Alpha and Omega— be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**
Go in peace to love the Lord your God with heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE Ode to Joy

Joshua Allen

You may sit after the light passes you in the aisle.



*Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences*



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HENDERSON, TX
Christ the King/Reign of Christ
26th Sunday after Pentecost
November 26, 2023**

(*) Please rise in body or in spirit
Bold Italic Letters indicate congregational response

— **Gathering** —

PRELUDE Crown Him with Many Crowns *in the style of Bach's Prelude in D* Joshua Allen

WELCOME Rev. Michele Goff

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Liturgist: Kelly Weaver

Make a joyful noise to God!

Worship God with gladness!

Come into God's presence with a song!

Know that the Lord is God.

God made us. We belong to God.

Give thanks to God! Bless the name of the Lord!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN #385** All People That on Earth Do Dwell

CONFESSION

Christ rules over us all, seated at the right hand of God.

This is the same Christ who came to be with us,

to laugh with us, cry with us, break bread with us, and be one of us.

Therefore, we approach the throne with boldness,

knowing that Christ will hear our confession.

If we had known it was you, Lord, we would have done something different.

If we had known if was you, Lord, we would have given you food.

If we had known it was you, Lord, we would have taken you in.

If we had known it was you, Lord, we would not have passed you by.

But we did.

Too often we make excuses for not taking care of each other.

We have ignored your commandments to love and care.

We do not deserve forgiveness, but we ask for it anyway,

and ask you to help us change our ways.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God seeks the lost, brings back those who have strayed, binds up the injured, and strengthens the weak.

We are forgiven and restored. Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI #581**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

— **Word** —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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FIRST TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Bible p. 756, LG p.

984

The Spirit of the Lord is speaking; God's word is on my lips. Hear the word of the Lord.

SECOND TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 1:15-23 Bible p. 181, LG p. 234-235

Hear the word of the Lord.

God our Sovereign has spoken; the promise of the Lord endures forever.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46 Bible p. 27-28, LG p. 35

Hear God's wisdom from us.

The wisdom of God for the people of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

The Least Matter Most

Rev. Michele Goff

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

— **Response** —

***HYMN #773**

Heaven Shall Not Wait

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.54-55

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ,

such as a heavenly city, the household of God,

a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast,

and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom.

The kingdom represents God's triumph over all that resists the divine will

and disrupts God's creation.

Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world,

stirring hope in all people and preparing the world

to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope,

the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world.

It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth,

nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.

In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement

to the final triumph of God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the world that God loves,

we pray to the maker of heaven and earth, saying:

Let your will be done, ***on earth as in heaven.***

...Sovereign God, keep us watching and working for the promise of your heavenly realm, until all the earth rejoices at your coming in glory; through Jesus Christ, the Lord of life. **Amen.**