

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

November 26, 2023, 9:30 AM

THE REV. RICHARD G. REED



CHRIST THE KING

— WE GATHER AS GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE —

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tully United Community Church would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Fire-keepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands our buildings now stand.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, all who have gathered to worship God together – those here in person, and those live-streaming with us on ZOOM. Are there any **BRIEF** announcements?

PRELUDE

"Grateful"

John Bucchino

Soloist Marie Kemp

accom. Laura Rankin

GREETING

Celebrant: All blessings to you from Jesus Christ our saving Lord and King, the beginning and the end of all that is, who is and was and is to come. The peace and grace of Christ the King be upon us as together we worship God.

CENTERING CHORUS

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.
His mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, new every morning.
Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord, Great is thy faithfulness.

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Liturgist: The Lord is King, God is robed in majesty.

People: The Lord is robed, God is girded with strength.

L: God has established the world;

P: it shall never be moved.

L: We gather on this Christ the King Sunday, reminded that God is the supreme ruler of all.

P: God is our rock, our strength, our redeemer.

L: Come, let us worship our King! Let us pray.

Holy God, you call us into this sacred space. Let our hearts be made full of praise, our eyes full of wonder at your mercies, and our lips quick to tell of your blessings through Jesus Christ our Sovereign Lord. Let our praise be for the guidance of your hand and the righteousness with which you execute justice, that we might be your presence to a broken and hurting world. These things we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**HYMN

“O Worship The King”

#73

1. O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

2. O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is God's path on the wings of the storm.

3. The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

4. Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;

it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

PASSING THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us share signs and words of welcome and peace with one another!

-WE OPEN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS TO THE WORD-

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Liturgist: A reading from the book of Ezekiel. The shepherd and the sorting of the sheep.

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

Here ends the reading.

PSALTER

Psalm 100

Resp. 1

#821

R  Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing. 

Liturgist: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the lands!

People: Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into God's presence with singing!

L: Know that the LORD, who made us, is God.

**P: We are the Lord's;
we are the people of God,
the sheep of God's pasture.**

L: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and God's courts with praise!

P: Give thanks and bless God's name!

L: For the LORD is good;

**P: God's steadfast love endures for ever;
God's faithfulness to all generations. R**

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23

Liturgist: A reading from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Church at Ephesus.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put

all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Here ends the reading.

****GLORIA PATRI**

#70

**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.**

****THE GOSPEL**

+ Matthew 25:31-46+

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

Celebrant: This is the Word of God. **People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

The Rev. Richard G. Reed

CHORAL ANTHEM

“A Joyful Noise”

John Ness Beck

Laura Currie Chancel Choir

- WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER –

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (using "Sins")

Bidding: *We give you thanks, O God;*

Response: *and bless your name for ever.*

Celebrant: *God of Creation, God of Wonder, hear this offering of prayer and praise as a gift from our thankful hearts as we say:*

*We give you thanks, O God; **and bless your name for ever.***

Liturgist: We thank you for the wonders all around us. Thank you for the shifting of the seasons, for the smell of dry air and dry leaves, for the cool breeze and the gentle flurries in the air, for the warmth of sun and the warmth of hearth and home.

*We give you thanks, O God; **and bless your name for ever.***

We thank you God for one another – for the joys and struggles of relationships that nurture us and help us to grow. We thank you for our friends and loved ones, for those who loved us and who have passed, for new friends and new relatives and new life all around us.

*We give you thanks, O God; **and bless your name for ever.***

God, we thank you for your eternal presence in our midst and for the good news of your deep abiding love for all of creation. We thank you that salvation is not for us alone, but also for the world which you have created. Make us co-creators and co-saviors as we seek to live more gently with our world and help heal it of the harm we have done.

*We give you thanks, O God; **and bless your name for ever.***

We pray for peace and justice throughout the world, and especially for the people of Ukraine, the Israelis, the Palestinians, and the Kurdish people, that those driven to prejudice and hate, violence and terrorism against them may find new paths to walk that will bring them peace and compassion, welcome and security.

*We give you thanks, O God; **and bless your name for ever.***

Even as we give thanks, we lift up the concerns that burden us this day. We pray for all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit and for all who provide care for the needs of others. We pray for the lonely and the despairing...for those who struggle with addiction...for those who feel trapped in situations of

abuse...for those who are making difficult decisions in life. We ask your peace and blessing on all those we have named in this place today and all whose names and circumstances we lift to you now in the silence.

*We give you thanks, O God; **and bless your name for ever.***

We pray for your church, O God, and its mission in the world. Give to this faith community a passion for ministry to our neighbors in Tully and nearby and around the world. Help us see that we already have the resources we need for the mission to which we are called. Open our eyes to the opportunities to share your love, your grace, your welcome.

*We give you thanks, O God; **and bless your name for ever.***

Celebrant: Bless all of your children God, and pour your Spirit upon us, bringing healing, comfort and strength wherever it is needed. All this we ask in the name of the One who calls us forward in faith, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, 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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

-WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD-

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Celebrant: We are a blessed people. In this season of thankfulness and preparation, it is good that we recall God's many gifts in our lives, and the grace which God has given us to help us use them all for good; for the gifts of God are many and the needs of many are great. So let us bring forth our tithes and offerings.

****DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God, above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Word, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Celebrant: Give us thankful hearts, O God, for your grace to us in life and health and strength. Let these gifts of your bounty and of our hands be

used to glorify you now and in your church's work forever, in Christ's name. Amen.

- WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS -

****HYMN**

"Come, We That Love The Lord"

#732

**1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne.**

**2. Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King may speak their joys abroad.**

**3. The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets.**

**4. Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, to fairer worlds on high.**

BENEDICTION

Celebrant: Celebrant: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God with thanksgiving in your hearts. The blessing of God Almighty: Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, will be with you now and for ever more.

People: Amen! Thanks be to God!
(Please be seated)

POSTLUDE

**"A Spanish Rhapsody"
All Creatures Of Our God and King**

Arr. Joel Raney

****Indicates to rise if you are able**

Thoughts to Ponder After Worship:

- We all think of ourselves as sheep. In what ways do you think you are sometimes a goat?
- Who are the people in your life who help shepherd you and feed you spiritually? In what ways might you resist them? In what ways are you shepherd to others?
- What does it mean to be sheep of God's pasture?
- What parts of your life do you let Christ be King over? What parts do you keep for yourself?