



"What Wonderful Love is This" painting by Mike Moyers, 2014.

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH**
OF CHRIST

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor
Matthew Lawrenz, Musician
www.uccmke.org

November 22nd, 2020

Everybody has a story about money and possessions. These are sacred stories that deal with how we understand God's provenance and activity in the world. This week as we continue our stewardship sermon series, *OUR MONEY STORY*, we focus on the theme of *restoration*. This Sunday is also Reign of Christ Sunday. When we think about Jesus, the word "king" is not always helpful or accurate. Compared to biblical rulers, Jesus, and the kingdom he espoused could not be more different. Today we are invited to restore the meaning of "king" and "kingdom" as we prepare our hearts for Advent. This stewardship season, you are invited to remember, release, reimagine, and *restore* your stories so we can write the one God is begging us to live into.

Prelude

Prelude in A Major

J.S. Bach

Words of Welcome

Opening Song

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Words: John Samuel Bewley Monsell, Music: Johann Steurlein. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-737161

Opening Litany

WEEK FOUR: RESTORE

Sarah Are

One: In worship we tell a story:

All: A story of an unfettered love that changed the world.

One: In worship we tell a story:

All: A story of how we live and how we long to live.

One: In worship we tell a story:

All: Because we are forgetful people.

One: So may we remember who we are.

All: May we release the narratives that trap us.

One: May we reimagine this world to see what God sees.

All: And may we work toward restoration.

One: It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

All: Let us worship holy God.

Written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Opening Prayer

God,

We cannot do the work of *restoration* without your Word.

We cannot do the work of remembering, releasing, or reimagining without your Word.

We need you like the earth needs rain and a sailboat needs wind.

We come to you in prayer to ask that you breathe new life into us.

Grant us the clarity needed to hear your Word anew.

And as you do, *restore* us to your breath.

Restore us to your Word.

Restore us to one another.

Gratefully we pray. Amen.

The Gloria

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World with-out end, without- end Amen. World with-out end, with-out end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Music and Words: Paul Vasile, ©2008, Paul Vasile. Permission granted by the composer for use in worship.

Affirmation of Faith

Sarah Are

One: We believe in a *restoring* God,

All: Who restores our bodies through the gift of Sabbath.

One: We believe in a *restoring* God,

All: Who restores our souls through the gift of grace and second chances.

One: We believe in a *restoring* God,

All: Who restores this hurting world through the gift of mercy and God's son Jesus Christ.

One: And we believe in a *restoring* God who invites us to join in this restoration work.

All: As people of faith, we seek to restore creation to God by feeding the hungry, loving our neighbors, forgiving seventy times seven, welcoming the children, seeing all, loving all, and living like we belong to all.

One: And so we will work until God's promised day.

All: This we believe.

Amen.

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Old Testament

1 Kings 2:1-10

The book of First Kings continues where 2 Samuel left off. The first two chapters complete the presentation of the reign of King David and the succession of his son, Solomon. First Kings essentially uses the history of the kings of Judah and Israel to make sense of the destruction of Jerusalem to those experiencing exile in Babylon. It is a story of the failure of kings, kingdoms, and their deserved judgement from God. It is also a story of the Lord's grace and unwavering commitment to God's people through words of judgement and hope. In this passage, King David gives his successor, Solomon, advice on his deathbed. David demonstrates the worst qualities of a king in his final hours. The life and work of Jesus as an "upside down king" help restore to us the meaning of kings and kingdoms.

When David's time to die drew near, he charged his son Solomon, saying: "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, be courageous, and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his

testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn. Then the LORD will establish his word that he spoke concerning me: 'If your heirs take heed to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail you a successor on the throne of Israel.' "Moreover you know also what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me, how he dealt with the two commanders of the armies of Israel, Abner son of Ner, and Amasa son of Jether, whom he murdered, retaliating in time of peace for blood that had been shed in war, and putting the blood of war on the belt around his waist, and on the sandals on his feet. Act therefore according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace. Deal loyally, however, with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table; for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from your brother Absalom. There is also with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a terrible curse on the day when I went to Mahanaim; but when he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD, 'I will not put you to death with the sword.' Therefore do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man; you will know what you ought to do to him, and you must bring his gray head down with blood to Sheol." Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David.

RESTORE: EAST OF EDEN

I live somewhere east of Eden.
It is beautiful, but not complete.
There are children that play and laugh
and sing,
Music that moves me, sunsets that undo
me.
The spring is green, the rain is sweet,
But this is not where we're meant to be.
And we know that, but we're quick to
forget,
Because well-intentioned people can
always slip.
But I don't want to forget.
I don't want to think
That daisies in the sidewalk are the same
as a garden.

I don't want to believe
A cup of tap water's the same as the
ocean.

I don't want to imagine
That this is the way,
That racism and climate change are just
part of the day.
I don't want to forget that this
somewhere-east-of-Eden
Home that we've built
Is not the place we are meant to be.
It's not the dream that we're meant to
dream.
So every night as I fall asleep,
I pray, "God wake me up" —
A restoration plea.

"Don't let me confuse a little bit of rain
For your downpour of grace,
Or a little bit of progress
For the end of the race."
And until heaven's on earth,
That's what I'll pray.

For I live somewhere east of Eden.

Don't let me forget.

Written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

New Testament

Philippians 2:1-11

Philippians was written by the Apostle Paul, along with Timothy, from imprisonment. This letter to the Philippian churches centers around two early Christian hymns or confessions that proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Paul identifies the reality of life in Christ for the Philippian Christian community who will soon experience persecution, just as Paul does in his imprisonment. He also expresses the joy that a life in Christ brings to all believers despite the outward circumstances of the world. In this passage, Paul proclaims who Christ is for the readers: the servant and Lord of all.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Sermon

RESTORE: CHRIST THE UNKING

Rev. Dan Stark

Song of Response

Make Me A Servant

Words and Music: Kelly Willard, Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-737161

Prayers of the People

Hear Our Prayers, O God, for...

~Our country during these divided and uncertain times.

~Pastor Dan, Sonia, Charlotte, Elliott, and Jade that they don't get sick while in quarantine.

~Nancy Charles' work facility, as it has been struck with a COVID outbreak.

~Melissa, wife of Doris and Paul Mayeshiba's nephew who is recovering from lumbar fusion back surgery. Prayers for a healthy recovery.

~Ernestine Faja for peace and comfort in the final days of her life journey.

~Maureen, friend of Sue Klockow, who has breast cancer.

~Jerry and Michelle who have been displaced from their home after a fire. They have now found temporary living arrangements in St. Francis for the next 6 months.

~Jean, sister of Doris Piacentine and her niece who is recovering from COVID.

~Kathy, Ken Klockow's sister who will be receiving home care for a serious infection.

~Dan, friend of Molly Pufall Brown, who is very sick with an undiagnosed illness. Prayers also for his wife and 2 young children.

~Kelley, friend of Nancy Charles as she receives radiation treatment for breast cancer.

~Bernee, friend of Nancy Kaye who has end-stage lung cancer.

~Joe and Laurie, son in law and daughter of Jackie Struck. Prayers for continued healing.

~Linda, daughter of Jackie Struck, as she receives wound care. Prayers for continued healing.

~Dawn, daughter in-law of Laurel and wife of Brad Dayton, as she has health issues from complications of diabetes. Continued prayers are requested.

~Tracy, daughter of Nancy Kaye, who is at home with Nancy awaiting liver and kidney transplants. She is doing well.

~Family of Ken and Sue who live in California close to the wildfires.

~Julene Flanagan's nephew, who is struggling with mental health issues.

~Julene Flanagan's family member who is struggling with health issues related to kidney disease.

Prayer Song

Come Away From Rush and Hurry

Words: Marva J. Dawn, Music: Attr. B.F. White, Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-737161

Mission Match Sunday Video

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God,

There was Eden, and then there was east of Eden;

Which is all to say – this world is not what you intended it to be.

You planted a garden and dreamed of Sabbath – and it was good. It was so very good.

However, when we look around today, we know that we have lost our way.

So today we bring our hearts, minds, and money back to you in hopes that you will sow good.

This is the work of *restoration*, for we want to be a *restoration* people.

Use these gifts for your hurting world.

Restore us to you, oh God. Amen.

Doxology



"Money for Nothing" by Sahand Hoseini
unsplash.com @ Sahand_Hoseini

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
A-men.*

Closing Song

Christ the Eternal Lord

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith, Music: George J. Elvey, Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-737161

Sending Blessing

Postlude

Fugue in A Major

J.S. Bach

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS/ COOKIE DONATIONS/ HAT AND MITTEN TREE

We will once again be buying Christmas gifts for children and adults through the Bay View Community Center. They are now available.

Please see instructions below as we are not currently meeting in person until November 29th.

*Contact the church office to pick a person(s) 414-481-3530 office@uccmke.org

*Your gift tag(s) and instruction sheet will be mailed to you.

*Assemble your gift(s) in a bag unwrapped with the gift tag **taped** to the outside.

*Return your gifts to church no later than Sunday December 6th. Gifts should be placed on table near the glass case by name tags.

*The church is open for gift drop off Tuesday-Thursday 8am-2pm & Friday 8:00am-12pm or possibly Sunday November 29th & December 6th during worship time.

Please do not include any gift cards and/or cash.

The BVCC is requesting this year that **cookies** be wrapped by the dozen in a plastic bag or container. This is so that there is minimal handling of the baked goods. Can you please bring them in by December 6th? They can be placed on the table by the glass case by the name tags.

THANKS to everyone in advance for participating! We are truly making the holidays brighter for those in our community! If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Social Concerns Committee.

Debbie Hansen, Mary Ann Mowery, Sara Rogers and Randene Wick

Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!

David Wilking November 22

Brian Mayeshiba November 24

Bill Behling November 25

Isabella Tremarello November 25

Robert Zieman November 28

THANKS

~Thanks for the prayers for my friend Dana who has completed her chemotherapy and at her last check up she was negative for cancer. From Mary Ann Mowery.

~We accept with thanks and appreciation a donation in memory of Mathilde E. Poth from Carol A. Forde.

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If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.
Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

We are currently worshipping at-home only due to the increased case counts in Wisconsin.

Find our more about our sanitation protocols here: <https://www.uccmke.org/covid-19>

You can make your offering to Christ Church through [PayPal](#) or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

