

Message from Robin+

Sunday is the Last Sunday after Pentecost and is also the Feast of Christ the King. Here's a bit of background – this feast was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 in celebration of the all-embracing authority of Christ. Interestingly enough it was a reaction to the increasing nationalism and secularism of the time. We don't seem to have learned much from this feast day, as we are still a world of competing nations and secularism is ever on the rise. It's ironic that this feast falls on the last Sunday of the church year, when our readings speak of end times and Advent is on the horizon. And maybe it feels like end times as we realize this Advent and Christmas will be like none we have experienced before. We are already tired or bored or longing to see friends and family and we cannot help but focus on the news and all that we cannot do.

What if we make this Advent a time to intentionally focus on Christ, our king; a time to step out of the earthly kingdom and into the heavenly one, if only for an hour each week in worship. Worship has a way of restoring our strength, firming up our faith, and reminding us that while we are in this world, we are not of it. Politics, economics, success, and suffering are the things of this world, but when we enter into worship, we are reminded who is the true Lord of our life. We are continuing to safely worship in person and our service is livestreamed on our YouTube channel as well. Join us either way. As we end one church year and begin the next with Advent, we have a gift of time in this shifting of seasons to renew our focus on Christ through worship and personal devotions.

As we did for Lent, we can be intentional in setting aside a place at home where we can spend time each day in prayer. It's time to change the prayer table to Advent time. Pick up an Advent devotional – ours is available as a booklet at church or you can access a link to it online. There are lots of other devotionals available online or at your bookstore. If you cannot get out let us know in the church office and we will see that you get a copy of ours.

Spruce up your prayer space with some evergreens (see what I did there?), an Advent wreath (we can help you with that – see our eNews for details), and any other objects that help you focus on God's presence. Spend time reading scripture and praying for the world, our nation, our parish, and family and friends. If you have a hymnal, sing Advent hymns, because to sing is to pray twice!

Finally, let your worship and prayer light a pathway to action. Send cards to those you think might be lonely, make a phone call and check on a friend or neighbor. Donate to our outreach projects to feed the hungry and bring Christmas joy to children and the elderly in need. And if you create your own Advent wreath, send a photo of it to the church office, or to me and we'll share them on Facebook and in our eNews – it will be a thing of joy to see them!

Remember that Christ is our king, make time to worship this Advent – come let us adore the one who reigns in this age and in the age to come.