

November 24, 2024  
10:30 a.m. | Chapel  
Christ the King / Reign of Christ

*Gathering Around the Word*

Lighting of the Candles

Jesus is the Light of the World!

Prelude

*A Song of Joy (The Lord Now Sends Us Forth)*  
The Carillon Handbell Choir

Arr. by Patricia Hurlbutt

Welcome and Announcements

*As the Friendship Folder is passed in your pew, please record your attendance in worship today.  
For our guests, please enter your name and contact information so we may welcome you.*

✦ **Call to Worship** (*responsively*)

*from Revelation 1:4b-8*

Norma Badeaux

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

**To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

**Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him. So it is to be. Amen.**

✦ **Opening Hymn 268**

*Crown Him With Many Crowns*

**Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:  
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet  
Fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;  
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.**

Words and music: Public domain

✦ Please stand in body or in spirit.

*Please silence your cell phones during worship.*

## *Being Renewed in Grace*

### **Call to Confession**

*based on Hebrews 4:15-16*

Rev. Rachel Mulgrave

**Christ sympathizes with our weaknesses. The one we call King in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.**

*(Time for Silent Confession)*

### **Prayer of Confession**

Anne Daniel - The Africana Worship Book Yr.B

**Put your truth in our hearts, dear God, for we are a people who are attracted to the error of our ways. We make bad choices and have brought upon ourselves many of the disasters that have come our way. We were not honest and truthful in all situations. We even try to hide from ourselves when we realize that we are responsible for our own mistakes. O Lord, do not remove yourself from us. Forgive us, we pray, for the many sins, wrongdoings, shortcomings, and lies. Fill us with your grace and blot out our transgressions. Give us genuine love for each other, we pray. We thank you for the assurance of your forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ. Hear us, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **✦ Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news: Jesus Christ loves us and has set us free from our sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, know that we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

### **✦ Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you!**

### **✦ Sung Response 582**

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**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. (Repeat)**

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### **Anthem**

*Christus Paradox (Choral Variations on "Picardy")*

The Chancel Choir

Sylvia Dunstan  
Alfred V. Fedak

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd. You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
You, peacemaker and swordbringer of the way you took and gave.  
You the everlasting instant; You, whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain, stripped of might upon the cross,  
Shining in eternal glory, beggar'd by a soldier's toss,  
You, the everlasting instant; You, who are both gift and cost.

You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God's side.  
You, who preach a way that's narrow, have a love that reaches wide,  
You, the everlasting instant; You, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ!  
Worthy your defeat and vict'ry. Worthy still your peace and strife.  
You, the everlasting instant; You, who are our death and our life. Alleluia.

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## *Proclaiming the Word*

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Norma Badeaux

Sovereign God, ruler of all creation, you sent Jesus to testify to the truth: that you alone are the Lord of life. Help us to listen always to his voice so that we may proclaim his realm of justice, peace, and endless love; through Christ, who reigns forever. Amen.

### **Scripture Reading**

*Psalms 132:11-18*

Norma Badeaux

*The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. If your sons keep my covenant and my decrees that I shall teach them, their sons also, for evermore, shall sit on your throne." For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his habitation: "This is my resting-place for ever; here I will reside, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless its provisions; I will satisfy its poor with bread. Its priests I will clothe with salvation, and its faithful will shout for joy. There I will cause a horn to sprout up for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed one. His enemies I will clothe with disgrace, but on him, his crown will gleam."*

God's word for God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

*John 18:33-37*

*Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."*

The Gospel of our Lord and Savior.

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

*Nobody Works Like Him!*

Rev. George Tatro

*Responding to the Word*

✠Hymn 800

*Sometimes a Light Surprises*

**(Choir)** Sometimes a light surprises the child of God who sings;  
It is the Lord who rises with healing in his wings;  
When comforts are declining, he grants the soul again  
A season of clear shining to cheer it after rain.

**(All)** **In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue  
The theme of God's salvation and find it ever new;  
Set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say,  
"Let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may."**

**It can bring with it nothing but he will bear us through;  
Who gives the lilies clothing will clothe his people, too;  
Beneath the spreading heavens no creature but is fed;  
And he who feeds the ravens will give his children bread.**

**Though vine nor fig tree neither their longed-for fruit should bear,  
Though all the fields should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there,  
Yet God the same abiding, his praise shall tune my voice;  
For while in him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.**

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**Affirmation of Faith**

*Declaration of Faith*

Rev. Rachel Mulgrave

Jesus announced the coming of God's kingdom and its hidden presence in the midst of the world's kingdoms. He taught his disciples to seek God's kingdom first.

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom. Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful. No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world. We are in the world, but not of the world. Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world, but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom. Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us; to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship; to walk by faith, not by sight, to hope for what we have not seen.**

**Offering Invitation**

*based on Revelation 1:8*

The Lord God is Alpha and Omega, the one who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty. All that is, all that was, and all there will be belongs to God. Let us now return to God in part what is God's in whole.

**Offertory**

*We Gather Together*

Arr. by James Curnow

✦ **Doxology** *(all singing)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✦ **Prayer of Dedication**

*based on Daniel 7:13-14*

Holy One, we pray that you take these gifts of our labor, our wealth, our time, and our lives and use them to express your everlasting kingdom of love in this world. **Amen.**

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Rachel Mulgrave

To the one who reigns over all creation, the Almighty, Lord of Peace, Lord of Love, Lord of Life, Lord of Lords, King of our Hearts, King of Kings, Christ, Messiah, Anointed One, Word of God, we name our prayers to you trusting that you, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, hear them and intercede on our behalf. Hear us as we pray saying, Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Bearing and Following the Word Into the World*

✦ **Sending Hymn 273**

*He is King of Kings*

**Refrain: He is King of kings; he is Lord of lords,  
Jesus Christ, the first and last, no one works like him.  
O he is King of kings; he is Lord of lords,  
Jesus Christ, the first and last, no one works like him.**

**He built his throne up in the air; no one works like him;  
And called his saints from everywhere; no one works like him. (Refrain)**

**He pitched his tents on Canaan ground; no one works like him;  
And broke oppressive kingdoms down; no one works like him. (Refrain)**

**I know that my Redeemer lives; no one works like him;  
And by his love sweet blessing gives; no one works like him. (Refrain)**

Words: African American spiritual; Music: African American spiritual; arr. Joseph T. Jones, 1961; adapt. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989;  
Music Adapt. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen, Glory to God, the Presbyterian Hymnal; Used by permission.

✦ **Charge and Benediction**

✦ **Postlude**

*All Hail the Power*

Arr. by James Curnow

*The ushers this morning are Angela and John Gutekunst.  
The greeter this morning is Sue Bercaw.  
The Stephen Minister this morning is Mac Jordan.*

## **The Worship Leaders this morning are:**

*Rev. George Tatro, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Rachel Mulgrave, Director of Faith Formation and Discipleship  
Heidi Chinnock, Director of Music Ministries and Organist  
Amy Noel Welch, Collaborative Pianist  
Ross Johnston and Steve Navarro, guitarists  
Guest Musician - Caleb Harris, euphonium  
Norma Badeaux, Liturgist*

*We, the congregation of Johns Creek Presbyterian Church, are faithfully living into our calling as disciples of Christ. Your support makes this possible. The Stewardship Team and Session want to share our current financial situation as we approach the end of the year. Through July our pledges and expenses were in line with the budget. Since then we have seen a decrease in income due to unfulfilled pledge commitments and an increase in expenses in the 4th quarter. If the current trend continues we project a net loss of over \$50,000 which is why fulfilling your pledge is vital to ending the year with a balanced budget.*

*The Session is working on our budget for 2025. So far we have received 59 pledges totaling \$582,345 (last year at this time we had 79 pledges totaling \$689,630). If you have not made your pledge for 2025, we ask that you make your pledge as soon as possible and prayerfully consider increasing your commitment. If you are a historic or frequent giver, please prayerfully consider a gift before the end of the year.*

*Our plan for 2025 is to grow our church and serve our community through mission and ministry. We are planning both a Men's and a Women's Retreat at Amicalola Falls in March, the return of Vacation Bible School, and special events, including the Rev. Dr. Chris Holmes sharing insights from his new book *Unspoiled Endings: Reclaiming the Book of Revelation*. Your support will enable us to grow in faith, share the Good News, and meet the deep needs in our community out of our abundance. Thank you in advance for your support of Johns Creek Presbyterian Church.*

### **Today's Guest Musician, Caleb Harris**

*Caleb Harris earned his Master's in Music Performance from Columbus State University and his Bachelor of Arts in Music and Minor in Entrepreneurship from Valdosta State University. He currently teaches low brass students privately throughout Gwinnett and Fulton counties, coaches low brass sectionals at local schools, and performs in many professional ensembles. He plays euphonium in the Georgia Brass Band, Sequence Quartet, and Sugarloaf Polka Band. Occasionally, he also freelances with local ensembles on euphonium, tenor trombone, bass trombone, and tuba. Formerly, Mr. Harris was the principal euphonium of the Tara Winds. Mr. Harris has won the following honors: 2nd Place in the 2023 North American Brass Band Association Slow Melody solo competition, 2nd Place in the Artist Euphonium Competition at the 2022 South Eastern Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference, 3rd Place in the 2021 Artist Euphonium Competition at the Leonard Falcone International Tuba and Euphonium Conference, and 3rd Place in the 2017 Young Artist Euphonium Competition at the South Eastern Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference. Caleb Harris has been with JCPC Academy of Fine Arts since July 2024, and we are blessed to have him sharing his talents in our worship service today.*

### **Upcoming Events at JCPC**

***As the Friendship Folder is passed in your pew, please record your attendance in worship today.  
For our guests, please enter your name and contact information so we may welcome you.***

2024-2025 Open Enrollment for Preschool is underway | [jcpcusa.org/preschool](http://jcpcusa.org/preschool)

### **Text/Email Scam Alert**

Please be aware that none of the church staff will ask you for money or gift cards.  
If you receive this message from anyone, please delete it and do not act upon it.

### **Amani Women's Center**

There are two plastic tubs in the Welcome Center. One is for sewing material and the other is for sewing notions. These will be taken to The Amani Women's Center to help with their work with west African women.



# THANK YOU TO OUR PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS!

A special thank you to Sharon Shuler for coordinating the delicious baked goods, Sara Sweet for coordinating the field trips, and Johnny Melin, Steve Simpson, and the Scouts for all of the help with the set up and take down of the patch. Plus our amazing church members and Lambert Key Club students for all of their volunteer hours!

The final amount raised for our Missions is \$5920!!

*See you at the patch next year,  
Honey & Lisa*





## Session Elders

### Class of 2024

Aisha Furtado (Youth Elder), Education Ministry Team  
Dawn Melin, Mission Ministry Team  
Zach Myers, Connecting Ministry Team  
Rich Shuler, Stewardship Ministry Team  
Tom Traylor, Clerk of Session and Stewardship Ministry Team and Personnel

### Class of 2025

Roy Davey, Worship Ministry Team  
Marilyn Davis, Worship Ministry Team  
Debi Doverspike, Mission Ministry Team  
Vivek Furtado, Youth Ministry Team

### Class of 2026

Craig Cunningham, Youth Ministry Team  
John Gutekunst, Education Ministry Team  
Alice Ann Nilsen, Caring Ministry Team  
Jim Pope, Stewardship Ministry Team and Personnel

## Name Tags for Sundays

*Please check on the round table in the Welcome Center for your name tag either before Sunday School or Worship. They will be in alphabetical order. If you don't have one, there are adhesive name tags you can use. There will be a clipboard with a list where you can add your name, and a name tag will be available for you the following Sunday. Please return your name tags to the table before leaving the church today.*

## Special note about our cameras

Welcome to worship! For many years, JCPC has recorded its worship services for those who are homebound or absent from worship. We are now able to Livestream the service from the worship hour. The worship leaders and the first few rows of the worship space are visible in these videos. The back rows are not visible in the Livestream or recording. Thank you for being with us this morning, and we hope you'll watch online when you can't be with us in person.

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