

**November 21, 2021—26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Reign of Christ Sunday  
Good Shepherd UCC, Tuckerton—Pastor Linda Kozlowski  
170 Tuckerton Road, Reading, PA 19605  
Beguiled By Beauty: Cultivating a Life of Contemplation &  
Compassion—From Beauty to Compassion and Justice  
Lay Reader: Carolann Seifrit**

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*Live Stream begins at 10:20 am. At this time we dim our church lights, ring the singing bell, and offer gathering music. We invite you to breathe deeply, to quiet your hearts, your minds, your souls as you prepare for this time of Worship in stillness.*

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**WE GATHER**

**Gathering Music**

**Joyce Maurer**

**Welcome**

One: This is the day our God has made.

**Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: Come, let us worship.

**Many: Let us gather in the presence of our God.**

**Ringing the Church Bell**

**Threshold Moment**

One: “This celebration of the beauty of beings, their communities and ecosystems, cannot exist without mourning assaults on them.” – Wendy Farley

Are you ready . . . to be an instrument of the Good?

Divine Goodness, prepare our spirits to see and to be beguiled by the beauty of life. Amen.

*Please rise as you are able in body and in spirit*

*Gentle music plays...Altar Candles are Lit*

One: Our series ends with a reaffirmation of our call to contemplative action in the world. The awareness of one another’s beauty is the “seedling for the birth of compassion and justice.” A contemplative life can empty us and ready us to become instruments of God’s Goodness. Let us affirm our plans to continue practicing “a way of beauty” that makes life “rich, courageous, generous, and joyful” as active agents of Divine Beauty in the world.

**HYMN “All Things Bright and Beautiful” (verse 3)**

*Refrain*

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small.*

*All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.*

*The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,*

*The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.*

*Refrain*

***Please be seated***

**Silent Centering**

One: You are invited into a moment of quiet rest, a time of slowing the pace of your body and mind so the spirit can settle within you and around you.

**Prayer of Opening**

One: Beloveds, let us join our hearts, our souls, our voices together in the spirit of prayer...

**Many: Divine Goodness, Holy One. Pause us for this moment. Bear us up in this time. Hold us for eternity. We offer our lives in service to your creation. We dedicate ourselves to increasing beauty in this world. We commit to compassion and action.**

*Time to pause in stillness followed by singing bell*

One: And all the people say:

**Many: AMEN!**

**Hymn of Beauty**

***“Take My Life, God, Let It Be”***

**#448**

***Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.***

***Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.***

***Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.***

***Take my intellect and use all its power as you choose.***

***Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.***

***Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.***

***Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.***

***Take me now, and help me be part of Christ’s community.***

**WE PROCLAIM**

**Lectio Divina**

One: We often hear today’s reading from Isaiah around the time of Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of the one called the “Prince of Peace.” The people to whom Isaiah writes are oppressed and exiled by their captors. They have known much suffering. When Isaiah writes “how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one who brings good news,” it is not the feet, specifically, that are beautiful, it is the whole message of release from suffering that creates a beautiful peace. It is akin to the saying “you are a sight for sore eyes!” The image of a messenger that brings good news is a welcome sign and cause for joy. To be part of the restoration of love and peace and hope is our call to unveil more beauty in the world.

**Scripture**

**Isaiah 52:7-10 (Inclusive Bible)**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of one who brings good news—who announces peace, and brings news of happy things, and proclaims deliverance, saying to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

Listen! Those who keep watch raise a cry, together they shout for joy—for they see with their own eyes YHWH’s restoration of Zion!

Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For YHWH comforts the people, and redeems Jerusalem

YHWH bares a holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God!

One: May the reading and the hearing of these words touch our souls.

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermo Divina**

**Message**

**“Your God Reigns”**

**Pastor Linda**

**Moment of Quiet Reflection / Ringing of the Singing Bell**

**Musical Interlude**

**“Fanfare”**

**Bell Choir**

**WE RESPOND**

**Sharing Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

***Please rise as you are able in body and in spirit***

**Call for Offering**

One: Beloved of God, we travel through life not alone but together, with the goodness, the grace, the glory of God. As we follow the footprints of Jesus, we share our neighbors' struggles and sorrows, dreams and delights. We travel through life with the help of God's Spirit, with the aid of family and friends, colleagues and neighbors, with the help of this Faith Community. We trust God has always been with us. We trust God is always with us. We trust God will always be with us. God is a keeper of covenants. May we continue to offer our time, our talents, our treasures so the ministries and the mission of Good Shepherd UCC can grow wider and deeper, can flourish and blossom. So all of God's creation can thrive! May we live and love like Jesus. Amen.

**Offertory (#785)**

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

**Passing Peace**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Friends, please share the peace of Christ with each other through waves and peace signs, through prayer hands or hands over your heart. Those joining us virtually, please share the peace of Christ in the chat section. Though we may be scattered, we are gathered and drawn in by the peace and love of Christ.

***Please be seated***

**Ritual Action**

One: Throughout our time contemplating the theology of beauty and Divine Goodness, we have been making connections between the well-being of our souls and the well-being of the whole earth and all God's creatures. My prayer today is that you will continue to use the contemplative practices experienced in this time to cultivate your own life of compassion. The note for this last week is a quote from Dr. Wendy Farley: "A contemplative life can empty us and ready us to become instruments of the Good . . . for the beauty of the earth," for the beauty of God's creation, for the beauty of God's world. May it continue to be so.

**Closing Hymn      O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing      #42**

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise.  
The glories ever echoing the triumphs of God's grace.**

**My gracious Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim.  
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your  
name.**

**Jesus! The name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows  
cease.**

**Is music in the sinner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!**

**Glory to God, and love and praise be ever, ever given.  
By all the saints in every age, the church in earth and heaven.**

**Benediction / Blessing**

One: The world is so varied, so beautiful, so diverse, so wonder-filled. Seek wisdom, seek wonder, seek grace, seek glory wherever it is to be found. And may the goodness of the Creator, the companionship of the Christ, and the insight of the Spirit infuse your life now and always.

**Benediction Reprise—"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"**

One: May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.

One: And all God's people say:

**Many: Amen!**

**The Light of Christ is taken into the Word.**

**Postlude**

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### ***Worship Notes***

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***All Things Bright and Beautiful. Cecil F. Alexander, 1848. Tune: ROYAL OAK. English Melody. Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915.***

***Take My Life, God, Let It Be. Frances R. Havergal, 1974. Tune: VIENNA. Justin Knecht, 1797.***

***O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing. Charles Wesley, 1740. Tune: AZMON. Carl G. Glaser, 1828. Adapt. In L. Mason's Moderon Psalmody, 1839.***

***Today's altar flowers today are sponsored by Carolann & Jim Seifrit in honor of their 31<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary and in loving memory of Mary S. Rieser.***

***Today's live stream worship is sponsored by Elaine & Jim Shoemaker in loving memory of Mary S. Rieser.***

***Thank you, Joyce, for sharing your gift of music with us this morning. Thank you, Carolann, for serving as our Lay Reader. Thank you, Diane for livestreaming and producing our worship. Thank you, beloved siblings in Christ, for helping to cultivate***

***beauty in our Faith Community, in the spaces where you live and learn, play and praise God, in God's bountiful creation. May you continue to follow Jesus as we go deeper in your faith.***

***Friends, please know I am here for you. Call, text, or e-mail me. We can talk on the phone, set up a Zoom time, or arrange a time to meet safely Please share your joys and prayers for us to lift during Worship.***

***Pastor Linda 484-529-2241 (cell)/[pastorlindakoz@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlindakoz@gmail.com)***

## Sunday, November 21, 2021 Announcements

### **Week of November 22<sup>nd</sup> at Good Shepherd UCC...**

#### **Monday**

...Pastor Linda virtual office hours 2-3:30 pm

...Personnel Team via Zoom 7 pm

#### **Tuesday**

...Announcements due to church office by 8:00am

...Overeaters Anonymous 10:30am

...F.A.C.T. Group 9-11 am

...Circle Sharing Small Group 10:30 am – Sanctuary

...Decorating the Sanctuary 12:30 pm

...Bridge Club (private group) 12pm

...Confirmation 7 pm

#### **Wednesday**

...Time To Start Living—AA 6:30 pm

...Open Sanctuary 4:30-7 pm

#### **Thursday**

### **...Happy Thanksgiving**

...Expect Miracles Al-Anon 10:30 am

#### **Friday**

...Pastor Linda Sabbath

...Decorating the Sanctuary 12:30 pm

...Overeaters Anonymous 10:30am

...Bridge Club (private group) 12pm

...Time to Start Living – AA 6:30 pm

#### **Sunday**

...Faith Formation 9 am

...Worship—1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent—“Making Room”—HOPE

...Cub Scouts – 5pm...Troop Scouts – 6:30pm

**Sanctuary Decorating...**On Friday, 11/26, we will be setting up and decorating a live Christmas tree in the sanctuary as well as placing candelabras on the pews. Please join us for pizza, fellowship, fun, and



decorating beginning at 12:30 pm. Many hands are needed to prepare our church for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

**Least Coin Offering for Safe Berks...**last Sunday of each month all change in the offering plate supports Safe Berks. Next collection 11/26/21.

**Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal:** December 2, 2021 at 6:30 PM

**Annual Christmas Bazaar...**Life and Work would like to **thank everyone** who helped with this year's bazaar. A special thank you goes out to Pat Boyer, who organized the bazaar; Karla Fabian, for organizing the baking of cookies; Pat Remp for organizing cookie orders; Mary Hummel, for securing baked goods; The FACT group and others for supplying craft items, the Herman family for breakfast, Michelle Hoover for making jellies, and the congregation of Good Shepherd for their generosity of volunteer time, donations, and support. Thank you. You are appreciated. You are needed. You are loved.

**Cookie Baking...**thank you to everyone who helped mix, roll, sprinkle, bake, package and taste test the cookies. We could not have done it without you.

### **Various Fund Raising Opportunities:**

Order forms are available for the following:

Soup Sale \$10 per quart (ends 12/2)

Poinsettias \$6 each (ends 12/12)

Luminaries \$5 (ends 12/19)

**Musicians Needed!...**If you would like to be part of Sunday morning services or the 30 minutes before our Christmas Eve Service, and have a musical gift you would like to share, our Choir Director and Organist, Joyce, is in need of your time and talent. Please check with her, if you would like to sing (with a mask on),

play a handheld instrument, or piano, and she will sign you up for an appropriate song that is compatible with our CCLI licensing.

**Bethany Children's Home/Angel Tree...** In place of an angel tree, Bethany Children's Home has shared a wish list of items needed for the upcoming holiday season. New, unwrapped items can be brought to the church by 12/12. Please see the list on the bulletin board and copies on the sign-in table. As always, monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Checks should be made payable to **Faith Fund** and can be mailed to the following address: **Bethany's Children's Home, Faith Fund, 1863 Bethany Rd., Womelsdorf, PA 19567**

**Advent/Christmas Worship Series ...The Inn—Housing the Holy...** The pandemic has laid bare, and widened, economic disparity, both locally and globally. As we enter the Advent season, how can our churches become houses where the Holy will be born anew—offering respite, sustenance, and care? Opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets who call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

11/28	“Making Room”	Hope	Jeremiah 33, 14-16, Psalm 25:4-5
12/5	“A Place at the Table”	Peace	Baruch 5:1-5, Philippians 1:9-11
12/12	“How Much is Enough”	Joy	Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 3:10-14
12/19	“Room with a View”	Love	Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46
12/23	Outdoors/Luminaries		Luke 2:1-20
12/24	“The Inn”		Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20
12/26	—“Dwelling”		Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

**Gift card program...** Please contact Judi and Gene Blimline at 610-376-5886 or [jablimline@aol.com](mailto:jablimline@aol.com). to order your grocery gift cards.

**Nov. Mission Partner...Opportunity House**

**December Mission Partner...Christmas Fund...** One of the 5/5 offerings of the United Church, The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thanks you!

**Streaming Sponsors...** Each week we stream worship on Facebook & YouTube. We are seeking weekly sponsors to help offset streaming costs. If you would like to sponsor a week of streaming, please contact Carolann in the church office. The cost is \$20. Sponsorships will appear in the bulletin. Please let us know how you would like your sponsorship dedicated; For Example: to the Glory of God, In Memory of ..., In Honor of ... And, if you have a particular date in mind, we will try our best to make that work for you.

**Office Hours for Week of November 22, 2021**

Monday 11/22...10:30am - 3:45pm

Tuesday 11/23...7:30am – 1:30pm

Wednesday 11/24...Office Closed

Thursday 11/25 Office closed Happy Thanksgiving

Friday 11/26...10:30 – 1:00pm



**Upcoming Events:**

11/26 Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas 12:30pm

12/15 Service of Reflection and Remembrance 7 pm

12/23 Pre-Christmas Eve Outdoor Service with Firepit and Luminaries  
6:30 pm

12/24 Christmas Eve: Music at 7PM  
Service at 7:30PM

12/26 Lay Leaders Leading Worship and Hymn Sing 10:30 am

01/30 Congregational Meeting (venue TBD)

