

Sermon 11/24/24

Today is Christ the King Sunday. Today is meant to be the day that we remember, Jesus Christ and all that he's done for us. It seems kind of strange having a holiday just set up to remember that Christ did all these things for us, and we celebrate it all the time. We recognize that he lived; that he died for us. We recognize that he was born, and he was created. We recognize that he's the final Covenant between God and us every day. We all try to live a righteous life. We all try to go out and help anyone we can. We pray regularly; we ask for forgiveness. We ask for everything that we can do. So, why is today different?

Today is the end of the year. It is the end of the church calendar here. Tomorrow starts. Advent. Tomorrow, we'd prepare for the birth of Christ. So today, this is the big day to remember everything that has happened in the previous year. Everything that we've done, everything that we've given in Christ's name, every time that we've tried to go out and help and benefit him, to teach the gospel, to do everything we can to help anyone. And everyone it is to remember those times and to put us in a direction for where we're going to go next.

This week I was in a meeting. It was a big meeting, and I was the lowest person there. And I hate going to this meeting because I am always the lowest person there. And we were talking about the election. And we were talking about the different things that the different faiths did to promote the election, to promote voting, to do all of these things. And then we broke into small groups and in that small group, we got to ask. Well, what are you going to do next? In my group I had the head of the Moravian Church. I had the head of the global Ministries organization. I had the head of the African-American Episcopal Church and me. And they're talking about these grand ideas that they're going to do. The African-American church is going to be promoting different aspects in inner cities throughout the United States. The Global Ministries is going to be promoting different ways that we can help the people in Palestine and the people in Israel and what we can do on that. The head of the Moravian Church was talking about all these wonderful things that their church does in moving forward from here. And then they looked at me and said, what are you gonna do?

Well, I'm going to do the same thing I do every day. I'm going to keep talking about Jesus, and I'm going to keep talking about love. And I'm going to keep going to the people that all of these things affect. And I'm going to hope that each one of them does this too.

It's great sitting at those tables. All these wonderful abstract ideas. But then, how do we get it back to all of us? How do we get it back to here? And they all stopped and they looked at me. No, you're not gonna do fundraising for this. You're not going to reach out for these programs. I'm like no. What I'm going to do is I'm going to go back, and I'm going to pray for my friend that's dying. I'm gonna go home, and I'm going to pray for the kids that don't have food in our school. I'm going to go home, so I'm going to set up a tree in the back of our lounge to put hats and scarves and gloves and mittens on for the people that can't afford it. When cold comes, that's what we're going to do. Because these ideas are fantastic. And there are a lot of people who need help out there and it's help I can't give. It's help I don't have the capacity to give. That's what's next for me.

I'm going to keep working. I'm going to keep trying to promote different things to help the people in this community. I'm going to keep pushing us to be that light in the night. We know that Jesus is coming. We know that this is the easiest time of year to get out to people, and to talk to

them, because everybody's happy; everybody's preparing for Christmas. Everybody is preparing for his birth. It's easy to share love right now. It's easy to find things in common with people that you normally wouldn't think you had. That's a great opportunity for all of us. It's a great opportunity for us to go forward. It's a great opportunity for us to share his love and not just remember today what we did last year, but what are we going to do next year? What are we going to do in the upcoming years?

We still have plenty of opportunities within the church that we can help. We're always looking for people to join committees. We're always looking for people to talk to. We're always looking for people that need help whether they want to admit it or not. We know if there are a number of people out there that this time of year are going to be acting happy, They're going to be acting like everything's okay. My friend, who doesn't want us to say who or what her name is, is trying to fight this problem of hers by herself. And I can talk to her every day. I can tell her how much we love her and how much she means.

And all of you can do that too with somebody else. I'm sure you all have friends right now that are going to be going through a holiday and they're going to be sad. They're gonna be missing somebody whether it's a family member or a friend. They're going to be upset about their job. They're going to be upset about different parts of the world that they can't do anything about, but we can help. All we have to do, let them know how much we care for them. Let them know how much Jesus cares. He gave his life so that all of us can. He was alive so that all of us share in this opportunity that is overlooked because it comes so easy for some of us. But for others, it's the hardest thing in life to do. I'm sure we've all been at a point in our lives where it's impossible to get up in the morning. The last thing you want to do is get out of bed. There's somebody else out there right now, that you know, that's going through that same thing. What's next for them? Help them, remind them too each day. It's worth it. Each day they can make a difference too. Sometimes it's hard to ask for that help. That can be what's next for us. We can be that help for those who won't ask, and can't ask. Let us pray.