

**Devotion, Week of November 17, 2024**  
**Rev. Jeanne Simpson**

When Thanksgiving comes, we know we are at the end of the liturgical year. The year follows the traditional harvest season, when the final crops were brought in and a celebration was held to thank God for the blessing of abundant food and prayers that the food would last through the winter to come. This Sunday we will celebrate the last Sunday in that year – Christ the King, or the Reign of Christ Sunday. We started the liturgical year in Advent, waiting on the birth of the child, then celebrated his birth and early ministry, followed by a time of reflection during Lent and the journey toward the cross during Holy Week. The empty tomb was celebrated on Easter Sunday, followed by a season of thanksgiving for the resurrection and Pentecost. After Pentecost, we began a season of “Ordinary Time” when we looked at aspects of Jesus’ life and ministry, and its meaning for us as his beloved family of believers. That season culminates in the acknowledgement that Christ rules over us with mercy and grace, as he has taken his seat with God in the heavenly realm.

And then we begin again – with Advent – waiting once again for this miracle child to come to us – this Immanuel – Christ with us. Join me this season as we remember the wonder of his coming – this gift of God for us so that we might follow in his path and rejoice in the gift of a Son and a life – sent to us freely in love by our creator. Oh come, oh come, Immanuel, come to us today, once more.

Yours in Christ,

*Jeanne*